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Bangalore Mirror

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ONCE BITTEN

Going by previous years' record-breaking dengue numbers, city gets set to curb cases this monsoon

PAGE 4

SCHOOL SHOCKER

Images of students being made to clean up sewage flowing from toilet at school in Yelahanka prompts rights complaint

PAGE 6

Heavy vehicles that are often overloaded, impatient speeding motorists and blind spots are a dangerous trio, warn officials and experts as 33 lives are lost each day on an average to traffic mishaps in state

HEADY, DEADLY MIX

Drive defensively when on highways, busy roads, advise experts

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After a series of fatalities in accidents on service roads along Expressways, experts have warned about the dangers of the swarm of heavy trucks and commercial vehicles muscling their way through these narrow stretches. For two-wheelers and smaller vehicles these can prove to be especially dangerous, particularly in rural areas where enforcement is lax, warns traffic expert MN Shreehari.

In February this year, around 32% of all fatalities on the road, were in accidents on National Highways. As per the recent data, an average of 33 lives lost were lost in the state and 94 others were injured every single day in traffic mishaps. Of 930 fatal crashes in the state last month, nearly one-third unfolded on the high-speed arteries of National Highways, claiming 310 lives and injuring 1,470 more. As trucks and fast-moving vehicles dominate these corridors, the highways are turning into hazard zones.

According to Sreehari, around 30–40% of motorists in the city are from nearby villages and often prefer using service roads. However, when heavy trucks use these same roads, they become hazardous for two-wheeler riders, pedestrians, and other commuters. "Driving habits also vary significantly between rural and urban drivers, factors like age, rash driving, and carelessness often contribute to accidents. On National and State Highways, vehicles often travel at high speeds. Youngsters, particularly those aged between 18 and 25 years, are the most frequent victims of road accidents, as they tend to drive at similar high speeds on both service roads and expressways," he said.

> **"On National and State Highways, vehicles often travel at high speeds. Youngsters, particularly those aged between 18 and 25 years, are the most frequent victims of road accidents, as they tend to drive at similar high speeds on both service roads and expressways** —MN Sreehari, traffic expert

Along the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, which passes through several villages, police data reveals a higher number of fatalities in these areas.

According to the expert, overloaded trucks are another cause of the accidents as these trucks' tyres burst due to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Call merge scam emerges

Fraudsters manipulate victims into merging calls to intercept sensitive info such as bank OTPs

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Cybercriminals in Bengaluru are upping their game, this time by exploiting a lesser-known feature on your smartphone, 'call merging'. In this scam, fraudsters manipulate users into merging calls, enabling them to intercept sensitive information such as bank OTPs and drain victims' accounts within seconds.

The modus operandi

Victims report receiving calls from unknown numbers, with the caller pretending to be a friend or relative, or claiming they got the number from one. They create a false sense of urgency, often saying another close contact is trying to reach you, and request that you "merge" the incoming call with theirs.

Unknowingly, the victim merges a second call, which, in reality, is an automated OTP verification call from a bank. Once merged, the scammers are able to listen in on the OTP and immediately use it to siphon money from the victim's account.

This scam is gaining traction, especially among those unfamiliar with advanced smartphone functions like conference or call merging.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Pride power

Join the evening with artistry, inclusivity, and unapologetic pride at this vibrant showcase. Drag Dynasty 2.0 is back with a power-packed night of drag, music, and bold self-expression. Catch Queen Priyanka, winner of Canada's Drag Race, and a dazzling lineup of Indian and international performers. **Where: The Grand Ballroom, The LaLiT Ashok Bangalore; Where: April 12, 8.00 pm**

02 Poetic legacy

Step into an evening of lyrical charm at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace," India's longest-running poetry event. This week features Serbian-American poet Henry al Muthanna, founder of the Non-Aligned Poets Collective. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: April 8, 7.30 pm – 9 pm**

03 Fusion feast

Step into a world where bold Indian flavours meet global flair. From Avocado Dahi Puri to Peshawari Lamb Seekh and Parle-G Cheesecake, every dish is a celebration of nostalgia reimagined. **Where: Dhamroo, Ramee Strand Hotel, Richmond Road When: Now open for lunch & dinner**

04 Poetic legacy

Step into an evening of lyrical charm at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace," India's longest-running poetry event. This week features Serbian-American poet Henry al Muthanna, founder of the Non-Aligned Poets Collective. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul When: April 8, 7.30 pm – 9 pm**

05 Artistic legacy

Celebrate the timeless works of MTV Acharya at this exhibition. Featuring rare mythological masterpieces and an illustrated lecture on his artistic journey, the event honours one of India's most influential artists. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture; When: April 4, 5 pm**

Celebrations

Ramanavami celebrations by ISCKON volunteers at Basavanagudi, on Sunday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Egg prices fall 10% as demand dips

Retail and wholesale prices drop as summer heat, bird flu fears, and school holidays hit consumption

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Egg prices have fallen by 10% due to a drop in demand, influenced by the summer season and concerns over bird flu.

Typically, egg consumption declines during the hotter months, but the recent bird flu scare has further dampened demand. Additionally, with schools closed for summer vacation, the daily supply of over 30 lakh eggs to students from Classes 1 to 10 has been halted, impacting overall sales.

Sources say eggs cannot be stored for long during summer, which has also contributed to the price drop.

In December and January, the wholesale rate for 100 eggs ranged from ₹550 to ₹600, but it has now fallen to ₹460. Retail prices have also declined from ₹7–7.50 per egg to around ₹6. Further reductions are expected around the Ugadi festival.

Poultry farming

"In summer, hens eat less and drink more water, leading to reduced nutrition and lower egg production. Transport costs have also increased. We source eggs from Namakkal in Tamil Nadu," said T Venkateshwaralu, Bengaluru region president of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC).

Karnataka produces approximately 1.6 crore eggs daily, with Bengaluru alone accounting for 50% of the state's consumption. Supplies come from Namakkal, Hospet, and Hyderabad, while part of Mysuru's output is exported to Kerala.

Rising costs in poultry farming

Sources also noted that poultry farming costs have surged due to rising prices of key poultry feed items like maize, soybean, groundnut cake, sunflower meal, and broken rice.

The sector is facing a shortage of labour, and costs for electricity and farm maintenance have also gone up.

Amid these challenges, poultry farmers are struggling to stay afloat, and further drops in egg prices could result in substantial financial losses.

Teachers get lessons on integrating sports & studies

UK-India initiative uses football to enhance education and life skills in government schools

The Department of School Education and Literacy, in collaboration with the British Council and the Premier League, has concluded the Premier League Primary Stars training programme for physical education teachers in Karnataka. The initiative aims to integrate sports into education, enriching learning experiences and equipping students with essential life skills.

The Operational Alliance Agreement (OAA) between the Government of Karnataka and the British Council was signed in October 2024. Over the next five months, more than 60 government school physical education teachers from across the state received a 12-day training that included high-quality coaching techniques, educational resources, and hands-on learning experiences.

After successful implementation in Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Goa, and Odisha, the Premier League Primary Stars programme has now expanded to Karnataka, further strengthening its presence across India. In the first phase in Karnataka, the training focused on equipping government school teachers with methods to integrate sport—particularly football—into their teaching practices. The final phase of the training was held from April 1 to 4, 2025.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa addressing the gathering

At the valedictory event of the Premier League Primary Stars programme in Karnataka, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said, "I am delighted to be part of the closing ceremony of Premier League Primary Stars, a remarkable partnership between the British Council and the Karnataka Department of School Education and Literacy."

Janaka Pushpanathan, Director South India, British Council, said, "We are delighted to be delivering on our state-wide Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka, and to further strengthen our collaboration with the Department of School Education through the implementation of the Premier League Primary Stars programme."

Nick Perchard, Director of Community at the Premier League, said, "The Premier League is committed to sharing its success by helping to develop the game and communities around the world. Working in partnership with the British Council and other local organisations, we are determined that the positive social impact of Premier League football is felt well beyond the game itself, supporting community leaders to positively impact individuals who need us most." **— Y Maheswara Reddy**

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Bengaluru braces for dengue impact as monsoon nears

City recorded 15,282 dengue cases in 2024; so this time BBMP has intensified fogging, surveillance, and penalties to prevent mosquito breeding well ahead of rainy season

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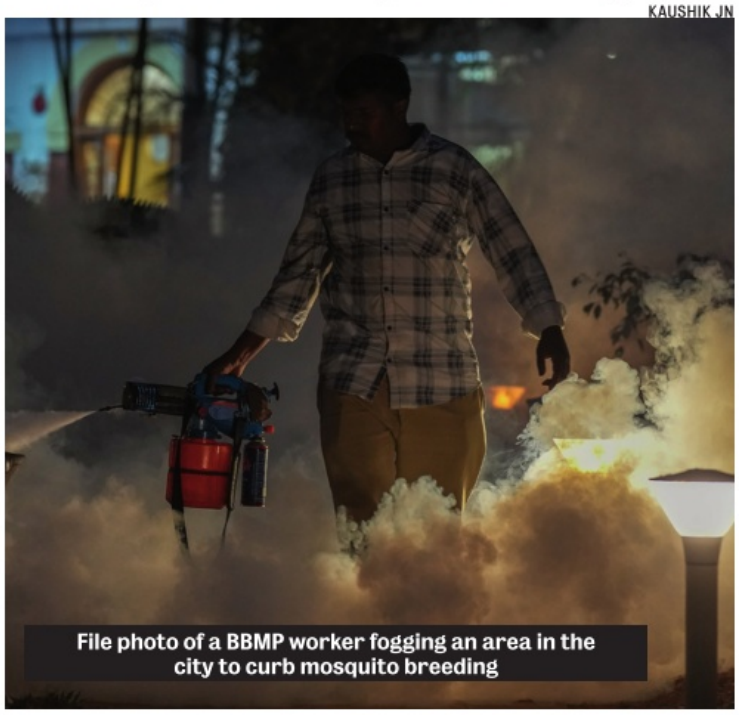

File photo of a BBMP worker fogging an area in the city to curb mosquito breeding

Dengue cases in Bengaluru have surged dramatically over the past few years, underscoring the growing threat of vector-borne diseases in the city. In 2022, the city reported 2,335 cases. This number spiked by an alarming 377% in 2023, reaching 11,136 cases. The trend continued into 2024, with a further 37% increase, pushing the total to 15,282 cases—the highest in recent years. The steep rise points to increased mosquito breeding, shifting weather patterns, and potential gaps in preventive measures.

The early months of 2025 have seen a decline in dengue cases; however, this dip comes ahead of the monsoon season, when cases typically spike. As Bengaluru awaits the arrival of the rains, only 329 cases have been reported between January and March 31.

With the onset of rainfall in the city, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has stressed the urgent need to launch dengue control measures without delay. He instructed officials to initiate public awareness campaigns and impose fines on those who fail to maintain hygiene.

"To effectively address the issue, coordinated efforts are needed across departments—including health, horticulture, forest, solid waste management, stormwater drains, and road infrastructure," he said. He also directed zonal teams to identify water stagnation points and act swiftly to prevent mosquito breeding. "There is a need for intensive fogging and insecticide spraying to destroy mosquito larvae," he added.

Harsha Gupta, Principal Secretary to the Government, Health and Family Welfare Department, emphasised the need for early identification of mosquito breeding sites and directed officials to ensure regular fogging operations. He urged BBMP to set up fever clinics in high-risk areas and impose fines on those neglecting cleanliness in vacant plots and construction sites. Weekly insecticide spraying has also been mandated to curb mosquito breeding. "To strengthen dengue surveillance, each BBMP zone should have a dedicated nodal officer and at least eight entomologists to monitor and control the spread," he said. Gupta added that the government will ensure the availability of dengue test kits to enable early detection.

> **"To strengthen dengue surveillance, each BBMP zone should have 1 nodal officer and 8 entomologists**
> – Harsha Gupta, Health Dept

BBMP Special Health Commissioner, Suralkar Vikas Kishore, revealed that 15,282 dengue cases were recorded in Bengaluru in 2024. The civic body has devised a zone-wise action plan to contain its spread. Last year, penalties amounting to ₹24 lakh were imposed for mosquito breeding violations.

Serving kindness and sustainability this summer

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Volunteers serving sweet drink at Jayanagar Fourth Block

Amidst the intense afternoon heat in Bengaluru, the Indian Ploggers Army, in collaboration with Helping Heroes, launched a thoughtful initiative on Saturday to provide refreshing relief to the community while also raising awareness about the importance of avoiding plastic.

Coinciding with Sri Rama Navami, the volunteers distributed sweet drinks, specifically reaching out to roadside vendors, transport workers, and law enforcement personnel.

Demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental responsibility, the entire activity was carried out using reusable containers, consciously avoiding disposables. This effort sent a powerful message of community care intertwined with environmental stewardship.

"We served the sweet drink in steel tumblers. I am participating in serving the sweet drink or summer drink to the public, especially to unsung heroes. I am very happy to have this opportunity to serve," said Preeti Padi, a volunteer. The volunteers began serving the sweet drink to BMTC bus drivers and auto rickshaw drivers at Jayanagar Shopping Complex and concluded it after serving the sweet drink to police at Jayanagar Police Station, she added.

Stating that it was heartening to see happy faces amidst the intense afternoon heat, Younes Matheen of Helping Heroes India Foundation said he was grateful to receive blessings from the public. "Auto drivers, bus drivers, and traffic police constables were very happy when we approached them with summer drinks. I had the opportunity to serve summer drinks last year too. We should cultivate the habit of serving refreshing drinks to the public during the summer," said Younes Matheen.

Plog Raja, the Founder of The Indian Ploggers Army, said that volunteers have been carrying out this initiative for several years, especially during the peak summer months. "We will continue this in other locations as well. We have also distributed cloth bags to street vendors and the public to raise awareness about the importance of using reusable bags for shopping," he said.

Menace of domestic violence

High Court Judge Justice Siddappa Sunil Dutt Yadav raised serious concerns about the widespread issue of domestic violence in India and the challenges in effectively implementing related protective laws. He referenced alarming statistics from the National Family Health Survey conducted in 2019 and 2021, noting that approximately 29% of married Indian women aged 18 to 49 have experienced domestic and sexual violence. Additionally, 3.1% of pregnant women within the same age group have suffered physical violence during pregnancy.

Speaking at the launch of the 'Legal Handbook on Domestic Violence Laws' by Aweksha, Justice Yadav said that numerous incidents remain unreported due to the sensitive nature of the issue and the possible repercussions women may face when asserting their rights.

He highlighted multiple barriers to the successful implementation of domestic violence laws, including a lack of proper training for key stakeholders. — BMB

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Blocked footpath

Jayanagar

A private garden has encroached on the footpath on 28th Main Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, next to Shekhar Hospital, obstructing pedestrian access.

Illegal hoarding

Bellary Road

An unauthorised advertisement remains on the skywalk at Bellary Road, near Esteem Mall, with BBMP and NHAI failing to take any action.

Neglected sanitation

KR Puram

The government school extension in VB Layout, KR Puram, has been maintained poorly, with stinking toilets. This area has been neglected for years despite government schemes.

PLEXUS®

Plexus Neuro Center Hosts 'Autism Awareness Camp' with Free Screenings and Expert Sessions

Bengaluru : In a heartwarming initiative marking World Autism Awareness Month, Plexus Neuro Center organized a day-long Autism Awareness Camp – **"U & I for Autism"** yesterday, offering free screenings for children of all age groups. The event aimed to educate, empower, and encourage early intervention for children on the autism spectrum, drawing a large crowd of parents, educators, and healthcare professionals.

The event began with an inspiring address by the Medical Director, Dr. Na'eem Sadiq, who emphasized the vital importance of early therapy. Through a compelling metaphor titled "The Sculptor's Masterpiece", Dr. Sadiq compared a child's brain to a raw piece of rock that, when nurtured with the right therapy, could be transformed into a work of art. "With the right care, children on the spectrum can grow into independent and capable individuals," he said.

The keynote was followed by an insightful panel discussion moderated by Dr. Kritika Amin, Senior Occupational Therapist and Mental Health Expert at Plexus.
The panel included:

- **Dr. Na'eem Sadiq** – Medical Director, Plexus
- **Dr. Kanishka Sharma** – Senior Occupational Therapist and Head of Rehabilitation at Plexus
- **Ms. Nashitha** – Parent of a child with autism
- **Ms. Esther Priyadarshini** – Special Educator

The discussion focused on debunking common myths around autism, such as the belief that children "outgrow" the condition or that therapy offers limited results. Panelists shared real-life experiences and expert insights, while attendees actively engaged with thoughtful questions.

This was followed by two transformative workshops for parents. The first, led by Dr. Kanishka Sharma, introduced participants to the basics of autism, sensory systems, and sensory integration therapy. Using interactive videos, Dr. Sharma helped the audience understand how a child with autism experiences the world and explained how occupational therapy can regulate sensory overload. She stressed that such therapies should only be conducted by licensed occupational therapists with degrees in BOT or MOT.

"Effective sensory integration therapy not only reduces hyperactivity but also enhances attention span and can even lead to improved speech and communication," Dr. Sharma explained.

The second workshop by Dr. Kritika Amin provided hands-on demonstrations of simple sensory activities that parents could carry out at home using everyday items like cushions, blankets, and weighted objects. The session also covered strategies to manage behavioral challenges and create sensory-friendly home environments.

Dr. Sana, Senior Occupational Therapist at Plexus, concluded the event by sharing moving success stories and powerful before-and-after videos. These case studies showed children who had made remarkable progress within just two months of therapy from hyperactive behavior to focused activity, and from non-verbal communication to speaking in full sentences.

In a celebratory closing, Dr. Sadiq announced that Plexus would be offering free autism screening both online and offline, throughout the month of April, in honor of Autism Awareness Month. Children who attend the screening would also receive a free consultation with Dr. Sadiq upon prior appointment.

Participants were then given a guided tour of Plexus' state-of-the-art Sensory Arena a unique, thoughtfully designed facility tailored to meet the sensory needs of children with autism. With distinct zones targeting different sensory systems, the arena offers immersive therapy to help children move towards greater independence.

All attendees received participation certificates, and the event concluded on a hopeful note, emphasizing the message that with the right intervention and understanding, children with autism can thrive.

For more details or to register for free screening (in-person or online), contact Plexus Neuro Center

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School accused of forcing kids to clean filthy premises

Students in a Yelahanka school were allegedly made to clean sewage, prompting human rights complaint; activists say act violates child rights and exposes students to health hazards

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Even with a ban in place, children are still being tasked with cleaning duties in schools across the state. The latest incident is about allegedly using high school students to clean dirty water overflowing from the toilets on the school premises at Yelahanka.

Paramesh V, a social activist and resident of Belathur Colony, has lodged a formal complaint with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission against Assistant Principal Kannamma and Kannada Teacher Shivashankar for using Government High School students to clean dirty water overflowing from toilets on the school premises. "It has been brought to our notice that students of this school are being forced to clean toilets within the school premises and are being made to clean sewage that is overflowing on the campus," the complaint read.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Paramesh said that he has the video of students cleaning sewage on the school premises. "The students go to school to acquire knowledge and not to clean toilets or sewage," Paramesh said.

Recently, Begur Police registered a first information report (FIR) against two teachers of Government High School, Begur, for making children clean the toilet area.

Meanwhile, Kannamma, Assistant Principal, Government Junior College, Yelahanka, said that she was on official duty (OOD) on the day of students cleaning the High School premises. "We have an NSS team which took up cleaning the premises along with teachers. We never engaged or compelled students to clean the toilet area. The water on the premises is from a leaky tap and certainly not from the toilet. We have a teacher who is misleading the public, media, and authorities," said Kannamma.

Students cleaning the school premises

Describing the incident of forcing high school children to clean school premises without proper gloves or cleaning materials is a violation of their rights, Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust said that as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19, which states that children have the right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury, or abuse. "The failure to provide basic and adequate safety measures puts the children at risk of exposure to harmful substances and potential health hazards, ultimately exploiting them by making them perform tasks not part of their educational curriculum. This situation may be a violation of child rights. To address this, the school should provide proper gloves, cleaning materials, and safety equipment to ensure the children's safety while cleaning," Nagasimha G Rao said.

> **"Failure to provide basic safety measures puts the children at risk of exposure to harmful substances and potential health hazards**
> –Nagasimha GR, Child Rights Trust

He said the school could explore hiring cleaning staff or providing additional support to ensure the premises are cleaned safely and effectively, prioritising the well-being and safety of its students, recognising that their education and development are paramount. "Even if students come forward to clean the school premises, it is the teachers' responsibility to provide them with necessary safety materials," he said.

UCC gets legal nudge

The Karnataka High Court has urged Parliament and State Legislatures to implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to fulfil the constitutional principles outlined in the Preamble.

Justice Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar stated, "The enactment of legislation on Uniform Civil Code as enshrined under Article 44 of the Constitution of India will achieve the object and aspirations enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India, bringing about a true secular democratic republic, unity, integrity of the nation, securing justice, liberty, equality and fraternity."

The Court expressed that UCC legislation would ensure justice for women, establish equal status across all communities, and uphold individual dignity through fraternity.

Acknowledging UCC implementation in Goa and Uttarakhand, the Court instructed the Registrar General to send the judgment to the Principal Law Secretaries of both the Union and Karnataka, encouraging legislative action to achieve Article 44's objectives.

The Court highlighted disparities between Hindu and Mahomedan Law regarding women's rights. While Hindu Law grants daughters equal status with sons, similar provisions are absent in Mahomedan Law. **–BMB**

Pervert caught on camera

Sudduguntepalya police have filed a case against an unidentified man after CCTV footage captured an attempted molestation near Bharati Layout 1st Cross. The incident took place around 1:55 am on Thursday, when two girls were walking along the street and a man allegedly followed them and tried to molest one of them.

The footage, captured on a camera installed at a nearby residence, was handed over to the police. An investigation is underway.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Hi and bye

Taking a cheeky jab at Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's curious definition of a "honeytrap," Karnataka Minister Satish Jarkiholi stirred the pot again. "If someone says 'Hi,' just respond with 'Bye' and bolt!" he said with a wink, adding his twist to the now-viral remark.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Friday after his return from Delhi, Jarkiholi didn't stop there. "You never know who your real enemies or friends are these days. It's not just ministers—even MLAs need to be extremely cautious," he advised. "When someone says 'Hi,' best to say 'Bye'—just to be safe!" And just when we thought things couldn't get quirkier, he signed off with a punchline: "It's high time we shut the chapter on this honeytrap web."

'No invitation'

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara had a mic-drop moment of his own when asked why he skipped the grand inauguration of the new Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi recently. His response-"I wasn't invited. So, I didn't go," he said, coolly speaking to the media. "I was the Deputy CM when the foundation stone was laid. Seems like they forgot that little detail," he added, with a smile that said more than words could. But wait—there's more! On the political buzz around CM Siddaramaiah, DyCM DK Shivakumar and their Delhi meet-ups, Parameshwara wasn't buying into the conspiracy theories. "The CM's visit was on behalf of all of us. No need to read too much into these Delhi trips," he clarified.

'Double standards'

With the BJP protesting against the price hike, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar took a sharp jab at the BJP, questioning their selective outrage over price hikes. "When the BJP was in power, fuel and LPG prices shot up. Now, toll rates have increased too. But strangely, the BJP never protests against these hikes," he quipped while speaking to reporters. Defending the recent milk price hike, he pointed out, "Farmers benefit from this. Wearing a green shawl alone isn't enough—dairy farming was becoming unsustainable, and farmers were forced to sell their cattle. This price adjustment helps them. Also, Karnataka's milk prices are still lower than in many states." When asked about the BJP-JDS rift over the protests, he shrugged it off, saying, "I have nothing to say about their internal drama. They are just two sides of the same coin, fighting for political survival. Let them carry on."

Son sparks controversy

In a bizarre and shocking display, Satish Gowda Turvihal, son of Maski MLA R Basan Gowda Turvihal, along with his brother R Siddan Gowda Turvihal, paraded through the streets of Turvihal town in Sindhanur, Raichur, flaunting hunted hares tied to a pole while wielding swords and other deadly weapons. The incident took place during the Ugadi festival celebrations on Monday, where the brothers seemingly turned a festive procession into a medieval hunting spectacle. Their act, which involved publicly showcasing their kill, has landed them in legal trouble. On Tuesday, authorities registered a case under the Wildlife Protection Act against the duo. The unusual and controversial display has raised eyebrows, with animal rights activists and conservationists condemning the act. Meanwhile, social media is buzzing with reactions, some calling it a blatant disregard for wildlife laws while others see it as an age-old tradition gone wrong.

'Totally accidental'

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi insists that his recent encounter with former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda was purely coincidental. Speaking to reporters, Jarkiholi clarified, "I had gone to discuss setting up industries in districts with Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, and I just happened to meet Deve Gowda accidentally... twice!" He added, "Even then, there was no political talk. I only inquired about his health." On the actual agenda, Jarkiholi emphasised the need for local industries to generate employment for district youth, stating that he had urged the Union Minister to prioritise this demand. **–Sridhar Vivan**

BM SIMPLY PUT

Restructuring B'luru

Today, we explore the proposed BBMP split and what it means for Bengaluru's future governance

Why is Bengaluru looking to expand?
Bengaluru, a city that once spanned just 2 square kilometres in 1537 when it was founded by Kempegowda, has now expanded to 800 square kilometres. Over the last five centuries, the city has transformed from a small village under the Gangas' rule to a sprawling metropolis. The rapid growth has brought modern infrastructure, including high-rises, double-decker roads, and underground rail networks, but also significant governance challenges. The state government, led by the Congress party, has now proposed a major administrative restructuring to address these issues by splitting the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into seven smaller corporations under a new entity called the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA). Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot has sent back the bill to the government seeking more clarification.

How will restructuring work?
The Karnataka state legislature has approved the Greater Bengaluru Administration Bill, which aims to divide the BBMP into seven corporations, each with its administrative setup. A three-tier governance structure will be implemented, with ward committees and municipal bodies functioning under the overarching Greater Bangalore Authority. This move is modeled after international cities like London and Tokyo, where decentralised urban management has proven effective.

Key highlights of restructuring plan
The city will be divided into five corporations—Bengaluru East, West, North, South, and Central—each comprising 100 to 125 wards. A unified Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) will oversee all corporations to ensure coordinated governance and development.

Will this solve city's problems?
While decentralisation is expected to improve governance, experts warn that the split alone may not solve Bangalore's chronic issues. Traffic congestion, waste management, road maintenance, and inadequate civic infrastructure remain critical concerns. Transparency and accountability in administration will be key challenges, with some fearing that corruption could increase rather than decrease.

Economic implications
The financial implications of this move are significant. The bill proposes that no new corporation should have an annual revenue below ₹300 crore. However, disparities in tax collection are likely, as areas like Mahadevapura (home to many IT-BT companies) generate significantly higher tax revenue than others. The expected revenue from property tax in 2024-25 is₹5,500 crore, with non-tax revenue expected at ₹4,000 crore. Experts warn that an uneven distribution of tax income among the seven corporations could create economic imbalances, impacting infrastructure development.

Will this lead to more bureaucracy?
Currently, BBMP operates like a state-level government with a Chief Commissioner, Special Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, and other senior officials managing the city. The restructuring will necessitate additional personnel, including Mayors and Deputy Mayors for each corporation, Municipal Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, engineers, and administrative officers. This expansion in bureaucracy could escalate administrative costs without necessarily enhancing governance efficiency.

Lessons from other cities
A similar experiment was conducted in Delhi, where the municipal corporation was split into three smaller entities. However, financial constraints led to a re-merger due to inefficient revenue distribution. Urban planners fear that Bengaluru may face a similar fate if financial and governance structures are not well planned.

What experts are saying
A few urban planners have criticised the decision, arguing that rather than strengthening metropolitan planning and governance, the government is opting for fragmentation, which may fail to address the city's core issues. Constitutional experts also warn that the creation of a centralised Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) could contradict the 74th Amendment, which seeks to decentralise power to local governments, potentially leading to further concentration of authority instead of genuine decentralisation.

New challenges
While the idea of splitting BBMP into multiple corporations aims to streamline governance, the effectiveness of this move will depend on its execution. Without proper financial planning, infrastructure development strategies, and governance frameworks, the restructuring could create more administrative hurdles rather than solving the city's pressing urban challenges.

Funds fraud exposed

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, arrested BK Nagarajappa, the former General Manager of Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC), in connection with a massive ₹97 crore money laundering scam.

The arrest was made on Saturday under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, following extensive searches conducted on Friday at multiple locations across Bengaluru. The ED investigation revealed that Nagarajappa was the key player behind the diversion of funds meant for the Bhovi community. Using a network of fake bank accounts, funds were siphoned off from KBDC and rerouted to friends and family.

Homecoming for Tim David

Ahead of his side's match against five-time champions Mumbai (MI), Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Tim David, who played for the Blue and Gold franchise in the past, opened up on sharing the dressing room with two icons of Indian cricket, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in his Indian Premier League (IPL) journey so far.

It would be a homecoming for Tim at Wankhede, though he will be donning RCB's Red and Gold colours, this time sharing space with Virat. Tim played three seasons for MI from 2022 to 24, scoring 658 runs in 37 matches and 34 innings at an average of 29.91.

Covid scandal report filed

Retired judge John Michael D'Cunha, who was appointed as the Commissioner of the Inquiry Commission to investigate the alleged irregularities during the Covid-19 procurement period, submitted the second interim report to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday. This is the second of a total of seven interim volumes, out of which four volumes pertain to the irregularities and scams that took place within the jurisdiction of the BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike). Separate volumes detail the irregularities related to BBMP's Bommanahalli Zone, South Zone, West Zone, and Yelahanka Zone. **IANS**

Mind your mobile: Pickpockets ride Metro too

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Once commonly associated with crowded buses and conventional trains, mobile phone thefts have now made their way into the city's high-security Metro system. A recent string of incidents points to a worrying trend — even the controlled environment of Metro trains is no longer immune to pickpockets and phone snatchers.

On Thursday, alert security personnel from the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF), deployed for crowd management during the IPL match at Chinnaswamy Stadium, apprehended two young men at Cubbon Park Metro Station in possession of seven stolen mobile phones. The duo — Ayush (12) and Sanjit (23) — both residents of Jharkhand, had allegedly stolen the phones from unsuspecting cricket fans. They were immediately handed over to the Cubbon Park Police. What shocked many was the involvement of a mere 12-year-old in the mobile theft racket, raising serious concerns about the increasing use of minors in petty crimes.

Just a day later, on Friday at around 7:20 pm, another attempted theft was foiled at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda (Majestic) Metro Station. According to BMRCL officials, "As a commuter was boarding the train at Platform 1, a man identified as Ganesh was caught red-handed trying to steal a mobile phone from a passenger's pocket.

A vigilant woman security guard noticed the act and intervened immediately. The accused was handed over to Upparpet Police Station by the Metro security team following the arrival of a Hoysala patrol."

According to security officials, the recent cases serve as a wake-up call and highlight the need for continued vigilance, not just from security forces but also from commuters. With growing footfall and packed trains during peak hours and events like IPL matches, Metro stations have become increasingly targeted by thieves seeking quick grabs. Passengers are being urged to stay alert.

Manipulation, sense of urgency used to con vulnerable victims

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The fraudsters are well-coordinated, smooth-talking, and often use psychological manipulation to coerce the victim into quick action.

Hacking of contact numbers

Cybersecurity experts suggest that this new wave of fraud reflects how scammers are exploiting social engineering alongside technical exploitation. The key factors include spoofing caller identity using names of real contacts to gain trust, initiating OTP-triggering transactions while keeping the victim on call or tricking victims into merging the OTP call, thus handing over the authentication code live. Once the OTP is captured, scammers execute instant withdrawals or high-value transactions, leaving the victims shocked and helpless.

"In today's digital age, the biggest threat is not just malware, it's manipulation. Social engineering attacks are designed to exploit trust, not technology.

The best defence is awareness. Always verify, never overshare, and treat every unknown request with suspicion, because even a moment of trust can lead to a lifetime of regret," said Mirza Faizan Assad, Cybercrime & Privacy Law expert.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

NEVER merge calls from unknown numbers or unknown callers claiming urgency.

VERIFY the identity of the caller independently before acting.

DO NOT share or enable access to OTPs, even passively over a call.

REPORT immediately to the Cyber Helpline (1930) or at https://cybercrime.gov.in if you suspect foul play.

Police and cyber cell alert

The Bengaluru City Cyber Crime Police have confirmed a few such complaints recently and are urging the public not to merge calls from unknown sources.

"Over the last six months, we've seen a rise in cases involving the hacking of phone numbers and WhatsApp accounts. Cybercriminals constantly evolve their tactics, and while we strive to stay one step ahead, it's a growing challenge, for both the police and the public," a senior police official said regarding the emerging scam.

Your Connect

jobs

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tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the **C-Cubed Solutions Pvt. Ltd.** having office at 3 & 4, SVR Layout Off 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560095 that, despite issuing various emails and communications to take your cartons/ materials back from Crown Worldwide Private Limited, no reply has been received from you.

Therefore, we are issuing this Public Notice, that in case C-Cubed Solutions Pvt. Ltd. through their representatives or any personnel fails to reply or connect with the authorized representatives of Crown Worldwide Private Limited having office address at C-3, MIDC Taloja, Raigad District, Navi Mumbai 410 208 within a period of **07 days'** from the publishing of this public notice, the said cartons shall be destructed and that, the Crown Worldwide Private Limited will not be held liable for the same, which you may kindly take note of.

Mr. Shashank Shubam
(Advocate Bombay High Court)
For Crown Worldwide Private Limited
Dated: 11 March 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the **Deccan Cargo & Express Logistic Pvt.** having office at 138, Raheja Paramount, 4th Floor, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025 that, despite issuing various emails and communications to take your cartons/ materials back from Crown Worldwide Private Limited, no reply has been received from you.

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Mr. Shashank Shubam
(Advocate Bombay High Court)
For Crown Worldwide Private Limited
Dated: 11 March 2025

real estate

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3BHK superior quality Duplex flat for sale in Ashok Nagar, BSK 1st stage. BDA location. Rs. 2.30CR+Reg. Call: 9739702982/ 9739703182

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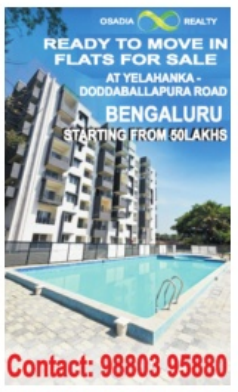

personal

GENERAL

I Naik Mani Maran R with army no. 14259296F residing at #118/10,1st main, 9th cross , rajagopal gopal nagar, peenya 2nd stage, bangalore 560059 declare that Lara M is my daughter.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ms. Abigail Venkat, D/o Mr. Venkatesan, R/o F2/B4, 114, Mithila Enclave, Sarjapur –Varthur Road, Opp. TISB School, Dommasandra, Bengaluru – 562125, have changed my name from V. Abigail & Abigail Venkatesan to Abigail Venkat vide Affidavit No. IN-KA976544 81421533X dated 03.04.2025. Henceforth, I shall be known as Abigail Venkat for all future purposes.

I Asha Devraj Patil W/O, Devraj Patil R/o Old No 26 New No 57, Muthappa Block Ganganagar, R T Nagar, Bengalore 560032. have changed my name to Asha Devraj.

I Raju D(Original Name) s/o Devappa r/o #737 ashrayanagar Bengaluru -58 changing my name from Yesappa(Wrongly updated adhar name) to Raju D as per my School records before notary HS Sakalesh Aradhya

I Reddipalle Manjunatha Reddy S/O, Venkataramana Reddy R R/o No:433,vaikuntapuram,9th Main Road,aecs Layout,b Block,singasandra,bangalore 560068 have changed my name to Manjunath Reddy R.

GALLERIA

8-4-2025 ರಿಂದ 6 ದಿನಗಳು
ರಾಮೇಶ್ವರ - ಕನ್ಯಾಕುಮಾರಿ - ತ್ರಿವೇಂದ್ರಂ - ಅಲಿಪಿ ಬೋಟಿಂಗ್ - ಕೋವಲಂ ಬೀಚ್ - ಗುರುವಾಯೂರು.
24-4-2025 ರಿಂದ 8 ದಿನಗಳ 6 ಜ್ಯೋರ್ತಿಲಿಂಗ ಪ್ರವಾಸ
ಉಜ್ಜಯಿನಿ - ಓಂಕಾರೇಶ್ವರ - ಶಿರಡಿ - ಭೀಮಶಂಕರ - ಪರ್ಲೆ - ತುಳಜಾಪುರ - ಎಲ್ಲೋರ
7-5-2025 ರಿಂದ 5 ದಿನಗಳು
ಕಾಶಿ - ಅಯೋಧ್ಯ - ಪ್ರಯಾಗರಾಜ್ - ಗಯಾ - ಬುದ್ಧಗಯಾ
: ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ : ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುರಾಜ ಟ್ರಾವೆಲ್ಸ್, ಕೋಲಾರ
9611082432/9449652555/8123099913

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ
ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ
ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್, ವಿವಿಧ ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸುವರ್ಣಾವಕಾಶ
ಶಾಲೆ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾತರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ 1 ವರುಷದ
ನರ್ಸರಿ ಟೀಚರ್ಸ್ ಟ್ರೈನಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್
Diploma in Computer Teachers Training Course
DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER DATA ENTRY OPERATOR
6 ತಿಂಗಳ DIT, DCA, DOA ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳು [Qual: SSLC/PUC]
ಸರಕಾರದ PM ವಿಶ್ವಕರ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸಾಕ್ಷರತಾ ಸಮಿತಿ
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One (tip) for the road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

excess weight. "Brakes of such vehicles also wear out due to friction caused by the overloading and they can also cause road collapses. An overloaded truck whose weight is shifted to the rear of the truck, makes steering much more difficult; also, partially loaded tanker trucks carrying liquids that slosh back and forth, upset the natural centre of gravity of the truck. Vehicles with loads protruding/hanging posing serious traffic hazards, risking itself and other road users," he said.

Experts said that in such situations, motorists often attempt to overtake or ride alongside overloaded trucks without realising the hidden dangers involved. "Failing to maintain a safe distance can put them at serious risk, as these trucks are already unstable and unpredictable. The slightest miscalculation or sudden movement, whether from the truck or the rider, can lead to accidents, making it crucial for motorists to exercise caution and maintain ample space when navigating around heavy or overloaded vehicles," said a traffic official.

Blind spots

In the bustling streets of Bengaluru, there is another silent killer. City's traffic police stressed on the often-overlooked menace of truck blind spots, and warned motorists to keep their distance and drive defensively. Heavy vehicles like trucks and buses account for 5.81% of accidents in the city. In many areas, large vehicles such as water tankers and buses occupy a significant chunk of the road space, worsening traffic congestion. Impatient two-wheeler riders often attempt to navigate through narrow gaps, increasing the risk of accidents and, in some cases, losing their lives.

However, these trucks pose a significant hazard -- that of blind spots. Unlike smaller vehicles, trucks have vast areas around them where the driver's vision is obstructed. Traffic officials said that the most perilous zones are directly in front, behind, and along both sides, especially near the doors and rear wheels. In such positions, a truck driver may be entirely unaware of the motorist's presence, leading to deadly consequences when making turns, changing lanes, or braking suddenly.

Recently, two motorists died in an accident involving a BMTC electric bus and a two-wheeler near the ISRO Signal on Old Airport Road. The victims, Tapadali (31), a Rapido bike rider, and Aditya Bose (32), an employee of a private firm, were on the scooter. According to police sources, the incident occurred around 10.33 pm when the two-wheeler attempted to overtake the bus. While doing that, the scooter collided with an oncoming car, causing the riders to lose control and fall under the rear wheels of the bus. Both were crushed and died on the spot.

Traffic officials urged on social media platforms that motorists must give ample space when driving in front of the truck. "A second of caution can save a life, trucks have four major blind spots front, back, and sides. Give them space and stay visible to avoid accidents," the officials said.

HEALTH TIP: Alcohol adds empty calories and can stimulate appetite, making it harder to stick to a balanced diet

Loaded with high amount of hidden sugars, sodas and energy drinks spike insulin and promote fat storage

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Feeling FOMO?

It's not event you're missing, it's bonding

Imagine you've planned the trip of a lifetime for your animal-loving family: a cruise to Antarctica with the unique opportunity to view penguins, whales and other rare wildlife. Your adventure-loving kids can kayak through fjords, plunge into icy water and camp under the Antarctic sky.

But rather than being ecstatic, as you anticipated, your kids whine about skipping an after-school scout meeting at a neighbour's house. Missing this ordinary weekly event triggers such intense FOMO – "fear of missing out" – for them that they don't want to go on your amazing expedition.

If this kind of debacle sounds familiar to you – or at least if you find it perplexing – you're not alone. The three of us are marketing professors and social psychologists who focus on how consumers make decisions and how this shapes well-being. We've been studying FOMO for over a decade and recently published our work in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Over the years, we've learned what really drives intense feelings of FOMO – which explains why a run-of-the-mill meeting might feel more crucial than an over-the-top vacation.

FOMO's real trigger

People use the term FOMO in many different ways. In our research, we focus on a very specific type of FOMO: the kind that occurs when people miss out on events that involve valued social connections.

With this kind of FOMO, we found that the pain of missing out is not related to missing the actual event or opportunity – although that could be there as well. The FOMO we study happens when people miss the chance to bond with friends, co-workers or teammates they care about.

So, the critical part of FOMO is missing out on interactions with people you value. FOMO about a group dinner at a restaurant isn't really about the food and great lighting. Nor is FOMO about a concert just about the band's performance. Instead, it's about the lost opportunity to connect and make memories with people who are important to you.

> **FOMO is missing out on interactions with people you value; it's about the lost opportunity to make memories with people who are important to you**

Why is this upsetting?

Imagine the scenario where all your best friends go out to dinner without you. They bond and make lasting memories with each other – and you're not there for any of it.

If they get closer to each other, where does that leave you? What happens to your social relationships and your sense of belonging? Do you become a less important friend? Less worthy of future invites? Or even kicked out of the group altogether? The anxiety of FOMO can begin to spiral.

People with what psychologists call an anxious attachment style chronically fear rejection and isolation from others. Because FOMO involves anxiety about future social belonging, it may not come as a surprise that people who are naturally more anxious about their friendships tend to get more intense FOMO. When we asked people in one of our studies to scroll social media until they encountered something social they missed, we found that the more anxiously attached a participant was, the more intense FOMO they experienced.

Not just missing Coachella

Getting FOMO for an amazing event you can't attend makes sense. But if FOMO is less about the event itself and more about the social bonding, what happens when you miss something that's not really fun at all?

We find that people anticipate FOMO even for unenjoyable missed events. As long as there is some form of missed social bonding, feelings of FOMO emerge. One of our studies found that people anticipated more FOMO from missing an un-fun event that their friends would be at, than a fun event without their friends.

For better or for worse, sad and stressful events can often be emotionally bonding: Going to a funeral to support a friend, cleaning up the mess after a party, or even white-knuckling through a harrowing initiation ceremony can all offer opportunities to forge stronger connections with one another. Stressful contexts like these can be fertile grounds for FOMO.

How to fend off FOMO

Popular discussions about the negative consequences of FOMO tend to focus on the FOMO people feel from compulsively scrolling on social media and seeing what they missed out on. Consequently, much of the suggested advice on how to mitigate FOMO centers on turning off phones or taking a vacation from social media.

Those recommendations may be tough for many people to execute. Plus, they address the symptoms of FOMO, not the cause.

Our finding that the core of FOMO is anxiety about missed social relationships yields a simpler strategy to combat it: Reminding yourself of the last time you connected with close friends may provide a sense of security that staves off feelings of FOMO.

In an experiment testing multiple interventions, we asked 788 study participants to look through their social media feeds until they encountered a post of a missed social event. We asked about 200 of these participants to immediately rate how much FOMO they were feeling. They averaged a 3.2 on a 1-to-7 scale.

Another group of about 200 participants also scrolled through their social media feeds until they encountered a post of a missed social event. But before indicating how much FOMO they were feeling, we asked them to think back to a prior experience socializing and bonding with their friends. Encouragingly, this reflection exercise seemed to curtail FOMO. Their average FOMO rating was 2.7 out of 7, a significant drop.

With the remaining participants, we tested other strategies for mitigating FOMO – thinking about the next time they might see their friends or imagining what they'd say to a FOMO-suffering friend – but the simple reflection exercise was by far the most promising.

So, reminding yourself of the meaningful relationships you already have and reaffirming your social belonging in the moment may help combat the rush of anxiety that is characteristic of FOMO.

And missing out on social bonding experiences doesn't have to be anxiety-provoking. In fact, in our activity-packed, hectic lives, missing some "must-attend" events may be a welcome relief – especially if you remind yourself that your social belonging is not in jeopardy. Cue a recent wave of counter-FOMO programming called JOMO, or "Joy of Missing Out."

To quote Stuart Smalley, the fictional self-help guru of 1990s "Saturday Night Live," reminding yourself that "I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it, people like me!" might be just the trick to mitigate FOMO.

(By Jacqueline Rifkin, Cornell University; Barbara Kahn, University of Pennsylvania and Cindy Chan, University of Toronto, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Whooping cough vaccine

Boost to vax
New research from The University of Texas (UT) at Austin in the US could aid in improving whooping cough vaccines, to push this disease toward eradication by targeting two key weaknesses in the infection.

Danger of whooping cough
Whooping cough, or pertussis, was once a leading cause of death for children in the US and worldwide before the introduction of vaccines in the 1940s.

Return
But the disease has made a troubling comeback in recent years as vaccine coverage declined after the Covid-19 pandemic.
In 2024, several outbreaks left public health officials and hospitals scrambling to accommodate a sudden influx of patients, primarily infants, who are often too young to be vaccinated and suffer the most severe symptoms.
Now, a team of researchers, including members of UT's McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Molecular Biosciences, has made significant strides in understanding and enhancing pertussis immunity.

Toxin involved
One of the things that makes pertussis infections dangerous is pertussis toxin (PT), a chemical weapon produced by the bacteria that weakens a patient's immune response and causes many of the severe symptoms associated with whooping cough.

Antibodies
The new research, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, focuses on two powerful antibodies, hu11E6 and hu1B7, which neutralise the PT in different ways.
"There are currently several promising new pertussis vaccines in the research and clinical trial phases," said Jennifer Maynard, professor of chemical engineering at the Cockrell School of Engineering. —IANS

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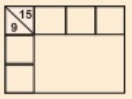
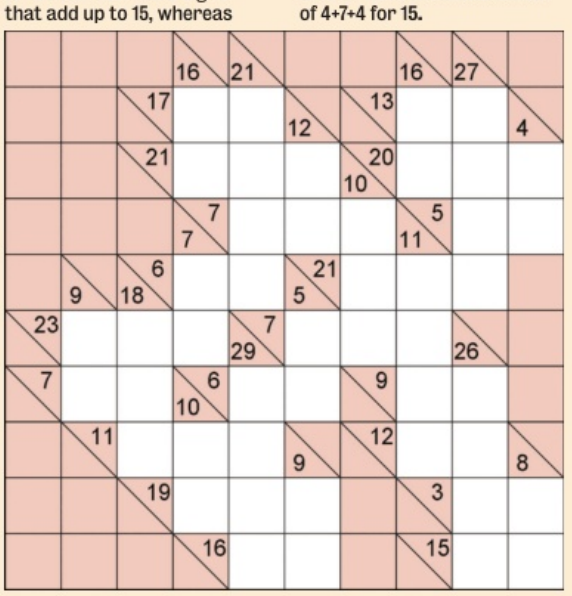
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

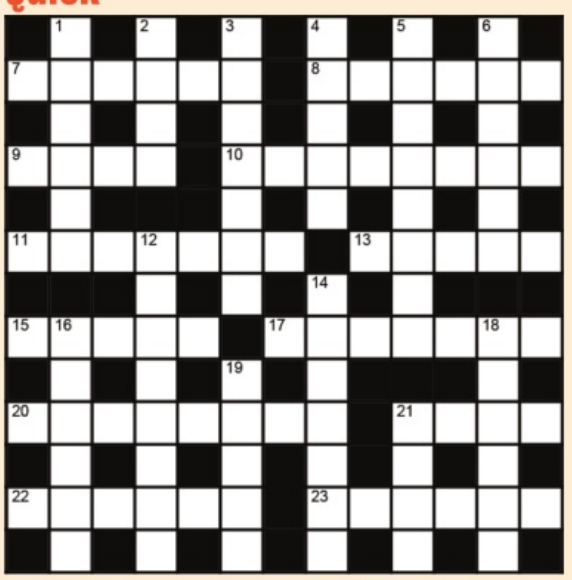


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 More damp with moisture, in a way? (6)
8 Embodiment or incarnation (6)
9 Hawaiian garlands? (4)
10 Famous battle (8)
11 Trained (7)
13 Non reactive (5)
15 Not as young (5)
17 Small swift antelope (7)
20 Indian holy city (8)
21 Criminal group (4)
22 Challenged or braved (6)
23 Bodies of troops (6)

DOWN

1 Awaken; reach (4,2)
2 Objectives (4)
3 Killed or died in water (7)
4 A la ___ : as per the menu? (5)
5 Hollywood actress Jennifer ____ (8)
6 In ___ of : pro? (6)
12 Climbing plant (8)
14 Dynasty which ruled the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 to 1947 (7)
16 Departs (6)
18 Connected (6)
19 Obscene (5)
21 Physical training facilities (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

W OLSG GXYU QXV ULQK OYJWCUY LV NWU WQ WQUTYS. LV ULQKU OYJWCUY LV NWU W UXQK.

Linemaro

How do you do it? Look so good?

Mindchow

The truest help we can render an afflicted man is not to take his burden from him, but to call out his best energy, that he may be able to bear the burden

Joke of the day

An empty bottle walks into a bar. Bartender says, "Sorry, I can't serve you. You're already drunk."

Loop

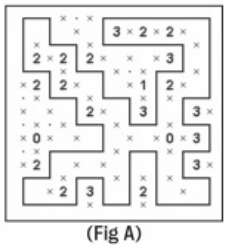
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

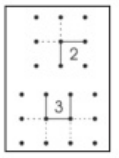
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

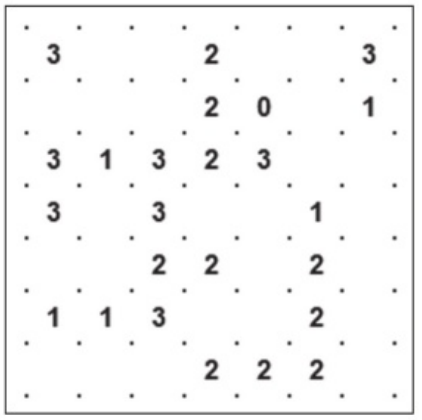
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



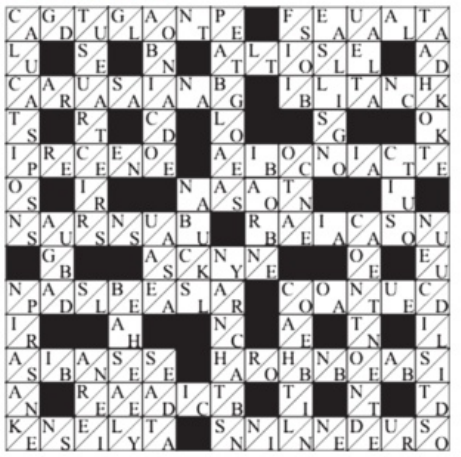
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



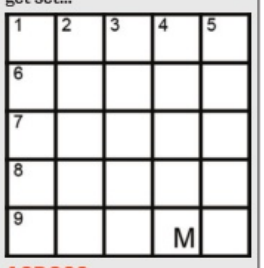
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 S Slot; 6 Ottar; 7 Eaten; 8 Nepal; 9 Agism

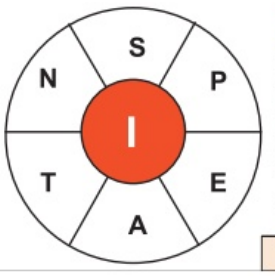
DOWN

1 Pests; 2 Liana; 3 Organ; 4 Motet; 5 Steal

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 24 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2						1
4	7	1		6				2
		6			5			
	1				8		5	3
		8				7		
5	6		7				8	
			5			9		
3				7		1	2	4
1						3		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

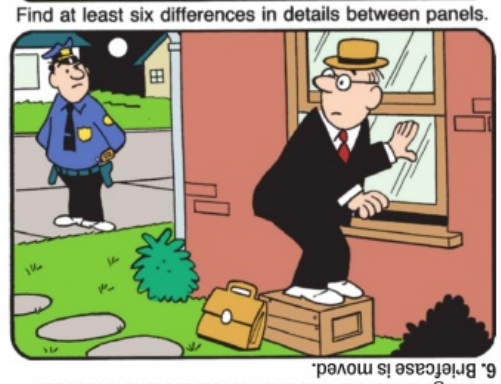
Easy = 15
2 3 4 6

Medium = 22
4 4 5 9

Hard = 54
2 2 4 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



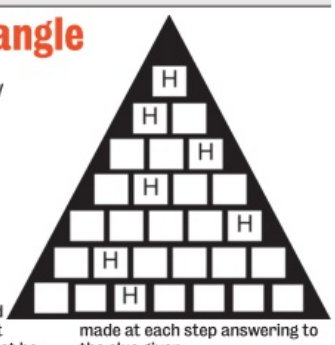
Differences: 1. Crate is smaller. 2. Bush is moved. 3. Badge is moved. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Stone is moved. 6. Briefcase is moved.

Riddler

I tower over the man-made plain; My peaks scrape the heavens. I have many brothers; in fact, We may be as many as a hundred and seven. We're as ancient as the oldest trees, But not older than the hills. We've been studied for centuries now, But with mystery we're still filled. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 1
2 Exclamation of joy
3 Stadium sound
4 Overcook
5 Pine cousin
6 Kind of music
7 Serious student

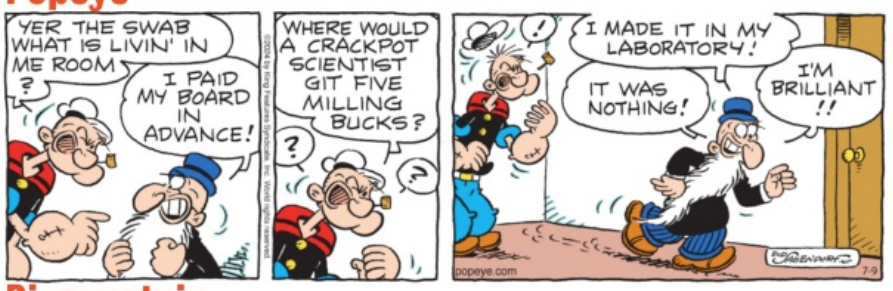


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YER THE SWAB WHAT IS LIVIN' IN ME ROOM?
I PAID MY BOARD IN ADVANCE!
WHERE WOULD A CRACKPOT SCIENTIST GIT FIVE MILLING BUCKS?
I MADE IT IN MY LABORATORY!
IT WAS NOTHING!
I'M BRILLIANT!!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU HAVE SO MANY MYSTICS THE GROUPING CARDS!
YEAH! AND NOT ONLY ARE THEY FOR PLAYING, BUT THEY'RE COLLECTIBLE, TOO.
REALLY?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
12/30

Crankshaft

OKAY, MITCH... ONCE YOU HAVE THE SCREW IN TIGHT...
YOU ALWAYS GIVE IT ONE LAST TWIST FOR LUCK!
SHOOT! I STRIPPED IT!
12-30
BATLIK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the Moon. Stuck money may be recovered, boosting liquidity in your business. You could find yourself in a leadership position on a project at work, possibly receiving incentives or even a promotion. Your bond with your spouse may strengthen, fostering domestic harmony.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your communication skills may help you resolve several issues today. You might consider enrolling in an advanced course to enhance your skills, which could benefit your career soon. Lovebirds will enjoy romantic moments, and you'll likely have the upper hand over rivals. Planning a home or vehicle loan is also possible.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may be focused on your children's education today and might travel for related reasons. A change in job or enrolling in higher education could be on your mind. You may receive good news regarding a competitive exam. Lovebirds can look forward to a joyful time together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A change in your position or location is likely today. Be cautious and read all documents carefully before signing. Take special care of your parents' health. Avoid risky investments for now, as they could lead to losses. It's advisable to postpone financial decisions for a few days.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you might need to moderate your directness, as it could strain relationships. You may plan home renovations or buy décor items. Attending a social event is likely and could expand your network. Some capital investment in a family business may also be on the cards.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The Moon's blessing brings health and clarity today. After a good rest, you'll feel revitalized and confident, which will positively influence your work. Old health concerns may be resolved. Acts of kindness toward the needy could earn you greater respect from those around you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel low today, both emotionally and physically, which could affect your productivity. Delays in projects might lead to frustration or arrogance. Avoid adventure travel or reckless driving. Lovebirds may experience tension, possibly even a breakup. Patience and clear communication are key.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A big order or opportunity may come your way today, boosting your business. Support from influential people could benefit your career, possibly leading to a promotion. Job seekers might receive positive news. Plans to renovate your home or office could enhance your status. Romance is also in the air.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Work may demand much of your energy today, potentially leaving you mentally exhausted. You might miss or be late for a family gathering, affecting harmony at home. Still, your efficiency will be appreciated by superiors, increasing your chances of a promotion.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Elders' blessings are with you today. Recent financial strain may ease, and stuck projects may resume naturally. Blocked money may be recovered. You could plan a spiritual trip with family, which may boost your inner strength. Long-distance or overseas travel is also a possibility.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
The Moon favours you today, making you energetic and decisive, especially in business. Your team or subordinates may help complete projects ahead of schedule, boosting mutual trust. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Jobholders could receive incentives or promotions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A negative moon may affect your mood today, making you feel irritable or withdrawn. Sudden changes could disrupt your routine. Financially, profits might slip into losses, so avoid any new investments for now. You may be in a self-reflective phase, gaining deeper insight into life.

KIDZONE

Aaron, Bengaluru

Sanjana, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(8(8−(8½)½)½)½ x (8−¹ x 8¾)½
=(8(8−½)½)½ x (8−¼ x ½)
=(8 x 8−½)½ x 8¯-1/12
=(8½)½ x 8¯-1/12
=8¯5/12 x 8¯-1/12
=8¯(5/12-1/12)
=8¯4/12 = 8⅓ = 2

RIDDLER
The pyramids of Egypt

BULL'S EYE
anise, inapt, inept, inset, instep, pain, paint, pine, pint, saint, SAPIENT, tine, satin, sepia, sine, site, snip, snipe, spin, spine, spit, spite, stain, stein,

FAST FIVE

S	L	O	T	S
T	A	R	O	T
E	N	A	T	E
P	A	N	E	L
S	I	G	M	A

STRIKE OUT

A	D	D	U	L	T	A	T	E	F	A	U	L	T	
N		R	E	A	C	T		I		T		T		
A	B	A	S	E		H	O	B	N	O	B	S		
R		A		C		A		N		I				
P	A	L	E	A	S	A		C	A	N	E	D		
		G		S	K	Y	E		O		U			
N	A	S	S	A	U		B	E	A	C	O	N		
O		R		A	S	A	N		I					
I	R	E	N	E		E	B	O	N	I	T	E		
	T	R		D		L		G		O				
C	A	U	S	I	N	G		B	I	T	C	H		
U		S		B	A	T	O	L		L		A		

QUICK

		S		S		Y		R		S		D		
	D	E	F	I	E	D		A	R	M	I	E	S	
		V		T		W		Y		K				
V	A	R	A	N	A	S	I		G	A	N	G		
		E		M		B		D		I				
O	L	D	E	R		G	A	Z	E	L	L	E		
				L		D		W		C				
C	O	A	C	H	E	D		I	N	E	R	T		
		T		E		N		E		U				
L	E	I	S		W	A	T	E	R	L	O	O		
M		M		O		R		W		V				
O	O	Z	I	E	R		A	V	A	T	A	R		

MENSA PUZZLE
C. In each row, the numerical value of the central letter equals the sum of the numerical values of the left and right hand letters.

QUOTE UNCODE
A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

SUDOKU

8	5	2	4	9	7	6	3	1
4	7	1	8	6	3	5	9	2
9	3	6	1	2	5	8	4	7
7	1	9	6	4	8	2	5	3
2	4	8	3	5	9	7	1	6
5	6	3	7	1	2	4	8	9
6	2	4	5	3	1	9	7	8
3	8	5	9	7	6	1	2	4
1	9	7	2	8	4	3	6	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ha, Rah, Char, Larch, Choral, Scholar.

GO FIGURE
4 + 2 + 6 + 3 = 15
Easy
4 + 9 + 5 + 4 = 22
Medium
2 x 4 − 2 x 9 = 54
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Jacqueline's mom no more
Jacqueline Fernandez's mother, Kim Fernandez passed away on Sunday. The actress performed the last rites, with her father

Friendly teasing

Ajay Devgn and Tabu have collaborated on numerous films, but their friendship extends far beyond the screen. Despite their recent film 'Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha' not attracting a large audience, their bond remains strong. A recent throwback video from the film's promotions has surfaced, featuring Ajay humorously explaining why Tabu remains unmarried.

In a throwback interview with Navodaya Times, Ajay Devgn humorously suggested that Tabu might be looking for someone like him, but jokingly noted that such a person doesn't exist. He initially teased that Tabu wants him, but quickly clarified that she seeks a friend with qualities similar to his, emphasising that there's no one else quite like him. Tabu responded with a playful nod, saying, "Exactly, main samajh gayi meri jaan (I understood)," and affectionately kissed his hand. She continued, acknowledging that Ajay's unique nature allows him to tolerate her, suggesting that if he were different, he might not have been so patient with her. The actor also said, "I am not married yet, you got married and have kids now."

Ajay and Tabu first showcased their chemistry in 'Vijaypath'.

-ETimes

HIT PAIR

As DeepVeer feature in ad, fans crave for more

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, one of Bollywood's most loved couples, appeared on screen together for the first time since their daughter Dua Padukone Singh was born. They starred in an air conditioner ad, which the brand shared with the caption,

"Good looks, good looks & good looks!"

In the ad, Ranveer jokingly says their party guests were more impressed by the air conditioner than Deepika's cooking or stories. When Deepika gets annoyed, Ranveer smoothly wins her over by revealing he bought the AC just for her. The moment ends on a loving note with Deepika kissing Ranveer.

Deepika and Ranveer last shared screen space in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. Deepika portrayed Shakti Shetty, aka Lady Singham, while Ranveer reprised his role as Simmba. The film boasted a powerhouse cast with Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, and Jackie Shroff.

Before Singham Again, the couple captivated audiences with their chemistry in hits like Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela (2013), Bajirao Mastani (2015), Padmaavat (2018), and 83 (2021). They also made memorable cameos in each other's films, Finding Fanny (2014) and Cirkus (2023).

After years of dating, the lovebirds got married in 2018 in a dreamy, private ceremony. In September 2024, they welcomed their first child, a daughter.

During Diwali, they introduced her as Dua Padukone Singh, sharing, "Dua: meaning a prayer. Because she is the answer to our prayers." Ranveer Singh's next film is Dhurandhar, co-starring Akshaye Khanna and directed by Aditya Dhar. The film went on floors in July 2024 and dives into the gripping history of R&AW.

-ETimes

Fun-filled Sunday

It looks like Kareena Kapoor Khan hosted a get-together at her residence over the weekend, and fans are loving the glimpse into the fun-filled afternoon.

The gathering included close friends and family -- Soha Ali Khan, Kunal Kemmu, Neha Dhupia, Angad Bedi, and others.

Soha Ali Khan took to her Instagram account to share a bunch of adorable pictures from the mini party, giving fans a sneak peek of their chilled-out Sunday.

In the first photo, the group is seen sitting around a dining table, smiling for the camera. Kareena looked stylish in an orange tank top and white pants. Neha Dhupia, sitting beside her, wore a denim dress. Soha looked elegant in a white full-sleeved top and black pants, while Kunal Kemmu sported a white T-shirt and red cap. Angad Bedi was seen in a white shirt and jeans. One photo shows Kunal in a swimming pool, while another one captured him balancing a spoon on his nose.

-IANS

Best week ever

Singer-actress Olivia Rodrigo is reminiscing about her favourite week ever. On Sunday, she took to her Instagram, and shared a newspaper which said that she performed a sold out show in Mexico City.

She wrote in the caption, "Mexico city! My first stadium and my first hot air balloon. One of my favourite weeks ever. Muchas gracias (thank you so much)".

Last year in October, Olivia had expressed her wish to return to acting in the future. The Grammy-winning singer started out starring on the Disney Channel series 'Bizaardvark' in 2016. Her last role was playing Nini Salazar-Roberts in the series 'High School Musical: The Musical: The Series' from 2019 until 2022. After making a concert film for Netflix, the actress-singer has admitted she would love to land a big-screen role one day, reports 'Female First UK'.

Speaking to E! News at the Los Angeles premiere of her 'Olivia Rodrigo: Guts World Tour' movie, she said, "I would love that. I love telling stories and I love telling stories in songs, but I'm not opposed to telling stories in film too I'd really be into that. "Who knows? We'll see where the wind takes me".

However, it's not the first time Olivia has discussed a potential return to acting.

-IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Agnyathavasi this week

Sandalwood often comes out with thrillers revolving around murder. Rangayana Raghu-starrer Agnyathavasi is set to join the list of such movies. It is helmed by Janardhan Chikkanna, known for his film Gultoo. The movie is produced by director Hemanth M Rao under the Dakshayani Talkies Production House banner. Its trailer was unveiled recently.

On the occasion, Chikkanna said the movie is based on an incident that took place in a village in Malnad. "The story revolves around a police station that has existed in the village for 25 years. One murder case was registered in 1997. The story is about how an inexperienced police inspector cracks the case," said the director.

He said he wrote the script after Gultoo was released. "I narrated the script to Hemanth Rao who evinced a keen interest to bankroll this movie. It is scheduled for release on April 11," he said. Rao said that Chikkanna was a good movie-maker. "The movie has turned out well," said Rao.

Trailer unveiled

The team of Mixing Preethi is thrilled about the unveiling of trailer and audio of the movie. Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce president Krishne Gowda was the chief guest at the function. SP Ismail has helmed the movie besides bankrolling it under the Friends Pictures banner.

Appreciating the quality of the trailer, Gowda said the director has worked hard. "The trailer of the movie is good. The director has not revealed the script of the movie," said Gowda.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajesh, producer-cum-director David, Suresh Chikkanna of Siri Music and other prominent personalities of Sandalwood graced the event. The movie features Sinto Jacob, Samhita, Vinya, Pavana, Divya, and Priyanka.

Thanking the guests, Ismail said Mixing Preethi is a love story but has all elements to entertain class as well as mass audiences. "The movie's title has the tagline – 100 percent Love," he said.